



Montessori State Teacher Certification

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1) What are the age levels/types of Montessori state teacher certification?

A1) Seven levels of certification have been established:

- Montessori Early Childhood (3K-5K)
- Montessori Elementary I (grades 1-3)
- Montessori Elementary II (grades 4-6)
- Montessori Middle Language Arts (grades 6-8)
- Montessori Middle Math (grades 6-8)
- Montessori Middle Science (grades 6-8)
- Montessori Middle Social Studies (grades 6-8)

NOTE: Early Childhood, Elementary I, and Elementary II are SEPARATE training programs.

Q2) What types of teaching positions will Montessori certification qualify me to apply for?

A2) Positions in public school Montessori programs at the same level of training you have completed. For the 2012-2013 school year, 47 schools in 24 districts currently employ approximately 260 Montessori teachers. To view a list and map of districts and schools with Montessori classes, visit the Montessori page on the SCDE website.

Q3) Does Montessori certification qualify me to teach in non-Montessori classes in public schools?

A3) No. You must also have SC certification in the non-Montessori area in which you want to teach.

Q4) Who is eligible to apply for the Montessori state teacher certification?

A4) Eligible candidates fall into 3 categories:

Category 1	Category 1A	Category 2
Candidates with a current, valid South Carolina teaching certificate in Early Childhood, Elementary, or Middle School who have completed Montessori teacher training	Candidates with a current, valid South Carolina teaching certificate in a K-12 field, e.g., Special Education, who have completed Montessori teacher training, Music	Candidates <i>without</i> a current, valid South Carolina teaching certificate who have earned a bachelor's degree who have completed Montessori teacher training
Add-on Certification		Initial Certification

Candidates from all 3 categories must have a certificate of completion from a Montessori Teacher Education Program that is/was **accredited by MACTE** (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) during the time of the candidate's training.

MACTE is recognized by the US Department of Education and Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) requirements are met for persons completing Montessori Teacher Education programs accredited by MACTE (www.macte.org).

Q5) I am in category 1; what do I do?

A5) If you have SC certification at the *same age level* of children as your Montessori training, this is called a "MATCH." For example, a person with an SC certificate in Early Childhood (which covers grades pre-K through 3) who completed Montessori training at the Primary (3K-5K) and level has all he/she needs to apply for SC certification in Montessori Early Childhood. Go directly to Q8.

Q6) I am in category 1A, i.e., my SC certificate is in a K-12 area (e.g., Special Education, Music); what do I do?

A6) Since you do not have a "MATCH" between your Montessori training and your SC certificate, you must obtain a passing score on one or more Praxis exams, depending on what area(s) of Montessori state certification you are seeking (see table below).

Certification Area	Praxis Exam Required for Candidates in Category 1A
Montessori Early Childhood	5024 Education of Young Children
Montessori Lower Elementary (EL. I)	5024 Education of Young Children OR 5019 Elementary Education: Instructional Practices and Application OR 5001-5005 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test
Montessori Upper Elementary (EL. II)	5019 Elementary Education: Instructional Practices and Application OR 5001-5005 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test
Montessori Middle School (Early Adolescence)	Praxis II: Middle Level Language Arts OR Praxis II: Middle Level Math OR Praxis II: Middle Level Science OR Praxis II: Middle Level Social Studies

Q7) I am in category 2; what do I do?

A7) Candidates in this category must obtain a passing score on two or more Praxis exams (see table below).

<u>Certification Area</u>	<u>Praxis Exam Required for Candidates in Category 2</u>
Montessori Early Childhood	5621 Principles of Learning and Teaching AND 5024 Education of Young Children
Montessori Lower Elementary (EL. I)	5621 Principles of Learning and Teaching OR 5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching AND 5024 Education of Young Children OR 5019 Elementary Education: Instructional Practices and Application OR 5001-5005 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test
Montessori Upper Elementary (EL. II)	5622 Principles of Learning and Teaching AND 5019 Elementary Education: Instructional Practices and Application OR 5001-5005 Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects Test
Montessori Middle School (Early Adolescence)	Praxis II: Middle Level Language Arts OR Praxis II: Middle Level Math OR Praxis II: Middle Level Science OR Praxis II: Middle Level Social Studies AND 5623 Principles of Learning and Teaching

Q8) Okay, now that I know I’m eligible for Montessori certification, how do I apply?

A8) Basic information is available on the Office of Educator Services page on the SCDE website:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/>

Here’s a step-by-step process for candidates in each category.

Category 1 (add-on for candidates with SC certification who have a MATCH in age/grade levels)

- Go to <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/LicensureForms.cfm> and complete the “Request for Change/Action Form” form. Submit the completed form, along with a clear copy of your Montessori training credential, to the address listed on the form.
- When the Office of Educator Certification receives these two items, you will be mailed a form. Send this form to your Montessori teacher education program for verification of your work and MACTE accreditation of the program. The completed form **should be sent back to you; the form should not be sent by the program to SCDE**. You send it back to SCDE.
- When the Office of Educator Certification has these three items, you will be issued a new Montessori certificate:
 - Request for Change/Action Form

- Copy of your Montessori credential
- Verification of Completion of Montessori Teacher Education

A new hard copy of your certificate will be mailed to you. Check your certification status on the SCDE website and you should see the Montessori certification added on.

Category 1A (add-on for candidates with SC certification who do not have a MATCH in age/grade levels)

- Steps are the same as above in category 1, except you must also take and pass the appropriate Praxis exam(s). For information on which Praxis exam(s) you must take, see **Q6**. For more information about the Praxis exams, go to <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/Required-Examinations.cfm>.
 - When registering for the exams, **please provide your social security number** in order for your scores to be reported to the South Carolina Department of Education. Scores are reported electronically and matched to our database using your social security number.
- In summary, if you are in category 1A, the Office of Educator Certification must receive the following FOUR items:
 - Request for Change/Action Form
 - Copy of your Montessori credential
 - Verification of Completion of Montessori Teacher Education
 - Praxis test results

Category 2 (initial certification for candidates WITHOUT a current, valid SC teaching certificate)

- Go to <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/> and follow the link labeled “Apply Now.”
- You will be mailed a form entitled “Verification of Completion of Montessori Teacher Education.” Send this form to your Montessori teacher education program for verification of your work and MACTE accreditation of the program. The completed form **should be sent back to you; the form should not be sent by the program to SCDE**. You send it back to SCDE.
- You must also take and pass the appropriate Praxis exam(s). For information on which Praxis exam(s) you must take, see **Q7**. For more information about the Praxis exams, go to <http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/Required-Examinations.cfm>.
 - When registering for the exams, **please provide your social security number** in order for your scores to be reported to the South Carolina Department of Education. Scores are reported electronically and matched to our database using your social security number.
- You must also complete the following tasks:
 - Obtain an official transcript of your bachelor’s degree, sent directly to the Office of Educator Certification
 - Get fingerprinted—for more information, go to http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ee/Educator-Services/Licensure/documents/ElectronicFingerprintProcedures_2015.pdf. There is a \$53.25 fee.
 - Pay the non-refundable application fee of \$105

- In summary, if you are in Category 2, the Office of Educator Certification must receive the following SEVEN items:
 - Application (submitted online)
 - Copy of your Montessori credential
 - Verification of Completion of Montessori Teacher Education
 - Praxis test results
 - Transcript of bachelor's degree
 - Fingerprints
 - Application fee

Note: Candidates in Category 2 may NOT add on any other area of certification to their Montessori certification. For example, if a candidate wants to teach in a traditional 2nd grade class, he or she must go through the steps outlined on the certification website for certification in Early Childhood.

Questions? Contact Kayla Audette, Office of School Transformation, 803-734-2781 or kaudette@ed.sc.gov.